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Playground to be built the Old Fashioned Way

Back in time before cell phones, before fax, before the internet and before nearly anything anyone under 30 knows - life was different. You knew your neighbor. You knew your community. We did things as a community.

Today, people seem to expect someone to do something because they are too busy, too tired or just too something. Right now, and right here in our community there is a project that looks to appeal to the way it used to be in an attempt to make tomorrow a little better for our community.

Plato once said that he could know someone better in an hour of play than a lifetime of conversation. Playing is good whether you are 2 or 92 but here in our community we lack the great outdoor places to play that stimulate growth and healthy behaviors in our kids. A group of volunteers from Stanwood and Camano, young and old, with and without children, and skilled and unskilled have come together to create The Rotary Adventure Playground at Freedom Park.

“This is the premium of premium playgrounds,” explained project coordinator Greg Gilday, “it is designed by our area youth and will be built by volunteers from throughout the community in only five days.” Our youth spent a day with a playground architect (and who would not want that job) to develop both a “tot” appropriate playground and a “big” kids playground. The site plan is available on-line at www.iHeartParks.org.

Once the playground was designed, the volunteers began seeking the tools to make it happen – money, people, construction tools and more. To date more than \$110,000 of the necessary \$200,000 has been raised and more than 400 individuals have signed up to swing a hammer, drive some screws and more. “This takes the community to make a reality and while we have a great start on this, the clock is ticking and we need more to turn this idea into reality,” explained Gilday. “You probably have more to give to this project than you think – call us or look at our web site for more than 20 ways you could support this project.” For more information click www.iHeartParks.org or call 360-722-7811.

The Stanwood Camano Community Playground is a community effort. Volunteers and donations are what will make this playground a reality for our children. Donations may be made to the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation on behalf of the project. More information is available at iHeartParks.org or by calling 360-629-2900.

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